AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-10, and 12-15; amend claims 16 and 19, and add claims 21-28 as set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) An illumination device, comprising:

an optical waveguide with an elongated rod shape and having a predetermined length with a light-receiving surface and a light-emitting surface;

a multiplicity of spaced point light sources positioned adjacent to and arranged in a line extending along the light-receiving surface of said waveguide;

a housing positioned adjacent to said waveguide and enclosing the light-receiving surface of said waveguide;

a scattering cap secured to the light-emitting surface of said waveguide and extending substantially along the length of said waveguide, said scattering cap receiving light transmitted through the waveguide from said ~~light source~~ point light sources and scattering said light to create a substantially uniform light intensity pattern along a lateral surface of said scattering cap; and

a protective shield applied to and encapsulating the waveguide, housing, and scattering cap.

17. (original) The illumination device as recited in claim 16, wherein said protective shield is a wear-resistant coating applied to and encapsulating the waveguide, housing, and scattering cap.

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) An illumination device, comprising:

an optical waveguide with an elongated rod shape and having a predetermined length with a light-receiving surface and a light-emitting surface;

a multiplicity of spaced point light sources positioned adjacent to and arranged in a line extending along the light-receiving surface of said waveguide;

a housing positioned adjacent to said waveguide and enclosing the light-receiving surface of said waveguide;

a scattering cap secured to the light-emitting surface of said waveguide and extending substantially along the length of said waveguide, said scattering cap receiving light transmitted through the waveguide from said ~~light source~~ point light sources and scattering said light to create a substantially uniform light intensity pattern along a lateral surface of said scattering cap; and

a protective sleeve that encases the entire illumination device, except for the lateral surface of the scattering cap.

20. (cancelled)

21. (new) The illumination device as recited in claim 16, wherein said point light sources are light-emitting diodes.

22. (new) The illumination device as recited in claim 16, wherein the lateral surface of said scattering cap is curved to simulate a neon or fluorescent tube.

23. (new) The illumination device as recited in claim 16, wherein said housing includes a pair of side walls along side surfaces of said waveguide and defining an open-ended channel that extends substantially the predetermined length of said waveguide.

24. (new) The illumination device as recited in claim 16, wherein said scattering cap is a thin coating applied to the light-emitting surface of said waveguide.

25. (new) The illumination device as recited in claim 19, wherein said point light sources are light-emitting diodes.

26. (new) The illumination device as recited in claim 19, wherein the lateral surface of said scattering cap is curved to simulate a neon or fluorescent tube.

27. (new) The illumination device as recited in claim 19, wherein said housing includes a pair of side walls along side surfaces of said waveguide and defining an open-ended

channel that extends substantially the predetermined length of said waveguide.

28. (new) The illumination device as recited in claim 19, wherein said scattering cap is a thin coating applied to the light-emitting surface of said waveguide.